

GRATTAN PUXON

NOTES on what I intend to say at the meeting
of Basildon's Development Control Committee
at Basildon Centre, 7.30 pm 24 January 2006

Mark

Actors Corin Redgrave and Vanessa Redgrave, who are supporting the SAVE DALE FARM CAMPAIGN, wished to be here this evening and are represented by Hagir Ahmed, of the Peace 7 Progress Party.

I would first draw your attention to the warning put out by the Brentwood, Billericay and Wickford Primary Care Trust that:

- a) due to the use of heavy machinery and the inevitable violence, women and children will be injured;
 - b) and psychological damage done to children forced to witness the violence.
 - c) leading, if the eviction should be successful, to the end of their education and all the hardships and dangers of life on the roadside.
- 1) Because you ignore this, I conclude with CRE that there is a racial taint to this decision.
 - 2) Especially as you also reject the proposal by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott for an Alternative site to be developed at PITSEA which, unlike Dale Farm, is not in Greenbelt.
 - 3) But if you are really concerned with Greenbelt, look what your contractors, Constant & Co have done at Meadowlands, Woodside and Twin Oaks. They have left land in a deplorable conditions, with electric cables exposed, top-soil removed, and high earth banks around the site (in any case illegal).
 - 4) Another myth is provision by Basildon.

Claimed on Item No.4 section 5.49

That Basildon provides over 100 authorised pitches

to the Travelling community.

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In reality, except for one county council site, Travellers have provided for themselves, as at Dale Farm. For the rest you have merely given planning consent, as for thousands of private houses.

Finally, we are very concerned about the rise in racist incidents since Mr Michael Howard's ill-conceived election pitch outside Dale Farm

(Mrs McCarthy has met with Michel Howard since)

and the more recent efforts by MP John Baron to stir up anti-Traveller feeling.

1) The Pitsea meeting – hostile to Traveller speakers.

2) Tyres slashed in centre of Basildon

3) I myself had bottles thrown at me by Young vigilantes in four-wheel drive vehicle on private Oak Lane

We ask you therefore to make a small gesture Just to indicate that you too oppose this unwelcome increase in intolerance – not to say dangerous rise in racism – that has come about in recent months.

Let us do something to bring calm and reason back into the debate.

There have been several tragic deaths at Dale Farm, among them those of John and Kathleen McCarthy (who both came to this hall) in a caravan fire.

At the weekend, Patrick Delaney, father of 15-year-old Johnny Delaney, murdered last year by racist youths, also passed away in Liverpool.